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IMPORTANT NOTICE
TELECOPY/FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

TO: Examiner P. Bex
U.S. Patent Office - Art Unit 1743

DATE: October 3, 2001

FROM: Wei-Ning Yang

TIME: 11:29 AM

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MESSAGE:

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/335,363, filed June 17, 1999.

Faxed herein is the proposed amendment for our telephone interview on October 9, 2001.

FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY

TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER: (703) 872-9089

CLIENT NUMBER: 81841.0019

ATTORNEY BILLING NUMBER: 1933

CONFIRMATION NUMBER: _____

DRAFT

PATENT
39D-1884 (81841.0019)
AFTER FINAL RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

George K. Shibata, *et al.*

Serial No: 09/335,363

Filed: June 17, 1999

For: SAMPLE LOADING AND
HANDLING INTERFACE TO
MULTIPLE CHEMISTRY
ANALYZERS

PROPOSED RESPONSE UNDER
37 C.F.R. § 1.116

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: P. Bex

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Wei-Ning Yang, Reg. No. 38,690

Name

Signature

Date

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated August 22, 2001, please amend
the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the text of claim 20 with the following text:

20. (Amended) A clinical chemistry system comprising:

a sample identification station comprising a sample identification mechanism
for determining sample identification information from a primary sample tube;

a transferring mechanism for transferring a volume of the sample from the
primary sample tube into a secondary sample tube;

a carriage mechanism that grips the primary sample tube contained in a
holder, whereby the primary sample tube separates from the holder, and transports
the primary sample tube to the sample identification station;